

River Legacy Parks Bridge/Trail Connection Is Becoming A Reality!



The 280 foot long pedestrian bridge was complete when the last span of the three was erected on Wednesday, Dec. 10th.



The Parks and Recreation Department's and River Legacy Foundation's long awaited goal of a completed trail system along the Trinity River will shortly become a reality. "This marks a significant achievement for the City and the citizens of Arlington," states Assistant Director Gordon Robertson. "The project will also open the park to countless more people throughout the Metroplex." A major component of the plan is a 280 foot long pedestrian bridge west of Collins. The bridge project will complete Arlington's trail system from Fort Worth to Grand Prairie. "We'll have nearly eight miles of uninterrupted trail in place."

Although the trail will be complete in early 2004, additional improvements are planned including a new entry/ parking lot off Collins and wetland enhancements, including a bird blind. "A formal opening ceremony is being planned for June," Robertson reported. "This will give us time to revegetate and stabilize the site."

*For more information, please contact John Fain,
Park Planner, at 817-459-5478.*



Harold Patterson Sports Center Site Improvements

The Harold Patterson soccer complex located at Sports Center Drive and Wimbledon is scheduled for a new look. Improvements include the renovation of two adult soccer fields and the restroom facility. In addition, the installation of new signs, perimeter fencing, vehicular gates, and irrigation improvements are also underway. According to Park Planner De'Onna Garner, "Harold Patterson Sports Center is the most used facility in the Arlington Parks system. We try to invest money in the infrastructure whenever possible to ensure we meet our customer's expectations."

*For more information, please contact De'Onna Garner,
Assistant Park Planner, at 817-459-6937.*



Dog Park Fund-Raiser A Big Success!

On Saturday, October 11, the Arlington Parks and Recreation Department, the Arlington Animal Services Department, and a citizens' group, Responsible Unleashed Fun for Fido (RUFF), jointly sponsored the City's "Barks for Parks" event to raise funds for the development of Arlington's first off-leash dog park. Richard Simpson Park on Lake Arlington was transformed into a dog-friendly park with a large off-leash area adjacent to the lake for dogs to run, romp and play. In addition to this very popular activity, a dog walk kicked off the event and dogs were kept busy with a "Celebrity" dog wash, doggie picture booth, frisbee catch demonstration and numerous contests. With an estimated 300 pets and their owners, the event exceeded expectations and raised over \$10,000 towards the development of a leash-free dog park. Additional fund-raisers are being planned, including another off-leash run at Richard Simpson Park on the weekend of January 24th and 25th.

Call Gordon Robertson at 817-459-5492 for more information on the upcoming event or to learn more about our plans for an off-leash dog park.



Don Misenhimer Neighborhood Park

Construction is scheduled to begin on a new neighborhood park in southeast Arlington. This park is approximately 12 acres in size. It is located on the northeast corner of Matlock Road and Lonesome Dove Trail. Improvements will include a parking lot, playground, pavilion, multi-purpose field, hike/bike trail, picnic facilities, sand volleyball court, basketball court and water spray-ground. It is scheduled to open in late summer of 2004.



For more information, please contact De'Onna Garner, Assistant Park Planner, at 817-459-6937.

Johnson Creek Ecosystem Construction

A contractor has been selected by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to begin construction on the ecosystem restoration phase of the Johnson Creek Flood Reduction Plan. "This is the second of three major plan components," Corps Project Manager Gene Rice, PE reported. "The buyout of flood prone homes is nearly complete. Now we'll begin to put some improvements in place."

Ecosystem improvements include bank stabilization south of Randol Mill Road and the planting of extensive native plant materials along

the creek in several locations from Lamar to Collins. "The goal is to help the creek revert to a native condition. This stabilizes the floodplain and provides a habitat for wildlife," Rice said. "This component should be complete by the summer of 2004."

Future development will include recreational improvements in the buyout area between Collins and Park Row. Additional ecosystem restoration will occur in areas between Collins and Matlock as well.

For more information, please contact John Fain, Park Planner, at 817-459-5478.

Founders Park Improvements

Design is currently in progress to improve Founders Park. "All improvements will be consistent with the Johnson Creek Linear Park theme, and Founders Park will become a part of this overall linear park system," reports Park Planner Joe Pack. "All trails, signage, benches and trash receptacles will reflect the *Johnson Creek Greenway* style of landscape architecture."

This project will be a joint effort between two City of Arlington departments. The Water Department is currently implementing a construction contract for the replacement of a sewer line along Johnson Creek. The Parks and Recreation Department will work in conjunction with the Water Department's project to plan and construct a new 12' wide concrete trail and concrete visitor parking

lot along Johnson Creek in Founders Park. The Founders Park Phase of the Johnson Creek Sewer Replacement project is expected to begin in August 2004. Park improvements could begin as early as the following September.

The 12' wide trail will be anchored with a trail head at the new parking lot at Arkansas Lane. This trail will continue south along the east bank of the creek. The existing asphalt trail on the west side of the creek will be removed, and the only pedestrian access will be east of the creek. This will provide a beautiful creek side seating area at *Marrow Bone Springs* historic site. The trail will meander into Vandergriff Park and become the future connection point for the continuation of the Johnson Creek Linear Park Trail.

For more information, please contact Joe Pack, Park Planner, at 817-459-5489.